



Alliance Francais Aruba celebrated their fortieth anniversary.

July 14th, Bastille Day is a traditional day to gather and celebrate for the members of Alliance Francais Aruba, but this year had special significance, as it was also the 40th anniversary of the organization the brings a bit of France to the island.

Alliance Francais consists of members not that are not only expatriate French, but also members of the community that hail from Haiti and other French speaking islands, and those that just love to use the language. This year they enjoyed a gala dinner in the Palm Beach Ballroom of the Westin Resort, replete with Bouillabaisse, naturally!

The ceremonial portion of the evening began with the singing of Aruba's National Anthem, "Aruba Dushi Terra," along with the "La Marseillaise." Jocelyne Croes welcomed the gathering as Mistress of Ceremonies, and Joan Driessen, President of AFA addressed the group along with the Honorary French Consul, Christian Mongellaz.

Dansa Aruba provided entertainment for the evening along with the Freddy Dirksz musical group, performing not only regional music, but French favorites in honor of the evening as well. During dinner a film of the beautiful French countryside was screened.

The Alliance Francaise enjoyed a "soiree merveilleuse!" to celebrate Bastille Day!